

Stage Performance

THEA 4600.003: Stage Performance (*Machinal*)

Class location TBD

Office Hours: MW's 2 pm - 3pm (by appointment only)

Instructor: Nathan Autrey

E-mail: nathan.autrey@unt.edu

*****The instructor reserves the right to change any information contained in this document, when necessary, with adequate notice given to the student.*****

I. Required Text

- *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell.

II. Introduction to the Course

- This course will cover the following topics as part of performing in DAT's production of *Machinal*: rehearsing and scholarly research.

III. Course Goal

- To examine the relationship between production technique and practice. Those enrolled in the course will work as a performer, designed to motivate by direct and immediate application of acting techniques taught in separate courses. The hope is that this will engender insight and enthusiasm in the participant, leading to a powerful performance for the audience.

IV. Course Description

A. Research and Rehearsal

You will be required to actively present your research for the production via the development of your role. The areas of concentration may be:

- The historical, societal, and philosophical meaning of *Machinal*.
- The acting skills necessary for performance of *Machinal*.
- The study of character development throughout an entire work.

B. Schedule

Each student shall carry out the assignments for the course by:

- Following the rehearsal and performance schedule distributed by the faculty or director.
- Attending the meetings, rehearsals, production calls, and performances on the schedules distributed to the members of the cast.

V. Course Requirements

A. Grading

Your creative growth and thoughtful responses constitute the major focus of this class. Therefore, open discussion and deep involvement are essential. **50%** of your grade will be based on attendance and promptness that includes active participation and being prepared.

1. Attendance/Promptness Each student shall:

- Attend each class meeting, including strike, and if scheduled, the "post-production" class meeting.
- Participate in all the rehearsals/technical calls for *Machinal*.

- Perform in all public presentations of *Machinal*.
- Serve satisfactorily as a member of the cast and crew *Machinal*, as assigned.
- Be on time and ready for all such crew calls, rehearsals, and performances as he or she may be selected for.

A student who is late for a meeting or a rehearsal, or who leaves one of these sessions without being dismissed by its supervisor shall be counted absent for that session. **No unexcused absences shall be allowed**, and all excused absences must be approved by the faculty supervisor or instructor of the course, and in many instances, by the Office of the UNT Dean of Students. **In particular, if and when a student's failure to attend the class activities named above is deemed by the instructor as harmful to the class production of *Machinal* or interferes or hinders the success of this group activity, this student may be removed from a cast or crew assignment.** Absences shall be graded as follows:

1. Participation/Preparedness

- It is expected that you give your undivided attention and support to your classmates during rehearsals. You can learn a great deal from watching others work. Each student shall participate in class activities so that the criteria listed below shall be met.
- Arrival at rehearsals/meetings: on time and ready to perform or work.
- Preparation: fully prepared for each rehearsal or call, including wearing the proper attire (see below).
- When cast is to be "off book": **check rehearsal/meeting schedule.**
- When staging is to be learned: **check rehearsal/meeting schedule.**
- Good manners: behave politely and with good manners at all rehearsals, work sessions, and performances/recordings.
- Interpersonal relationships: willing and cheerful support of group rehearsal, work session, and performance behaviors at all times.
- Treatment of equipment: use the equipment safely and with care, obeying all policies and procedures, rules and regulations governing their use.
- Personal: use no intoxicants immediately before or during a rehearsal, a call, or a performance.

50% of your grade will be based on writing a proficient reflective essay (**350-400 words, single-spaced**). **The reflective essay** as a self-assessment is a carefully crafted statement regarding the acting approaches, strategies, or methods attempted. It should include a concise and clear description of what worked or didn't work in terms of character exploration and final characterization(s); a concise and clear description of the challenges and triumphs experienced as a company member; and finally, a concluding statement of what was learned by engaging in an artistic process. The reflective essay is **due Friday, April 25th, by 5:00 p.m. Please upload the completed essay (either as word or google doc, or pdf) via Canvas.** The final semester grade will appear in letter form, according to the UNT grading system (i.e., "A," "B," "C," "D," and "F").

A. Communication

Information regarding class will be distributed in advance. Information may also be posted on FB and/or the "Theatre Callboard" site on Canvas.